REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of October 1, 2008 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-16, 18-20, 22 and 23 remain in this application. Claims 17 and 21 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claim 23 have been added.

Amendments to the Abstract

The Abstract has been amended herein to place it in a more preferred form.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 1-22 stand objected to based on various informalities. More particularly, claims 1, 2, 11-16, 18, 19 and 22 have been objected to based on minor informalities. Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 11-16, 18, 19 and 22 to correct the minor informalities.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 21 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claim 22 has been amended to be directed toward statutory subject matter.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-11 and 18-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. publication no. 2002/0143961 A1 to Siegel et al. ("Siegel") in view of U.S. patent no. 6,434,700 B1 to Alonso et al. ("Alonso"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*,

a device comprising: a first plurality of databases and interfaces for managing and centrally controlling the access, from any of the remote entities to the first plurality of databases and to a second plurality of databases, the interfaces comprising: a plurality of adapters configured to allow access to the first and second plurality of databases, each adapter being able to manage a corresponding database typology.

The feature of a plurality of adapters configured to allow access to the first and second plurality of databases, each adapter configured to manage a corresponding database typology as recited in claim 1, is not disclosed or otherwise suggested in either Siegel or Alonso. The Action relies on Siegel, alleging that para. [0028] describes such a feature. More particularly, the Action contends that the mere discussion of a plurality of databases governed by a PMT server inherently discloses the feature of each adapter configured to manage a corresponding database typology as recited in claim 1. Applicants respectfully disagree.

It is well settled that a certain result or characteristic that <u>may</u> occur or be present in the prior art is not sufficient to establish the inherency of that result or characteristic. *See* MPEP § 2112(IV). Siegel, at best, describes that service providers may access the data within the database by using the PMT protocol to communicate with the PMT server. Even assuming, but not conceding, that the communication between a service provider and the PMT server necessarily includes the use of adapters, the feature of each adapter *being configured to manage a corresponding database typology* is clearly not inherent. Significantly, adapters without the feature of being configured to manage *a corresponding database typology* as called for in claim 1 may allow for communication between a service provider and the PMT server. Siegel simply lacks description to lead one skilled in the art to conclude that the feature of each adapter being configured to manage a corresponding database typology <u>must be necessarily present</u> as required by MPEP 2112(IV). As such, Siegel fails to teach or suggest the feature of each adapter configured to manage a corresponding database typology as recited in claim 1.

Alonso fails to remedy the deficiencies of Siegel. Alonso is directed to authentication and authorization of users with passwords generated by the Fortezza cryptographic protocol. See col. 1, lines 5-10. Similarly, Alonso fails to teach or suggest the feature of each adapter being configured to manage *a corresponding database typology* as recited in claim 1.

Even assuming, but not conceding, that a combination of Siegel and Alonso would have been appropriate, the combination would not have resulted in each and every feature of claim 1. As such, for at least the above reasons, claim 1 is patentably distinct from any combination of Siegel and Alonso.

Claim 18 recites features similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 1. As such, claim 18 is patentably distinct from a combination of Siegel and Alonso for substantially the same reasons as discussed above.

Claims 2-11 and 19-20 ultimately depend on claims 1 and 18. Therefore, dependent claims 2-11 and 19-20 are patentably distinct from a combination of Siegel and Alonso for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 18 in addition to the advantageous features recited therein.

For example, claim 4 recites, *inter alia,*

wherein each of the plurality of adapters allows access to the plurality of first and second databases *independently from a technology of the particular database*

(emphasis added.) The Action alleges that such a feature is disclosed in Siegel. More particularly, the Action contends that because the PMT server is capable of managing multiple databases, it must inherently be capable of managing different typology of databases. As discussed above, the case law requires that Siegel's description of a server capable of managing multiple databases must make clear that the claim 4 feature of each of the plurality of adapters allowing access to the plurality of first and second databases *independently from a technology of the particular database* is necessarily present and be recognized by one of ordinary skill. *See* MPEP § 2112(IV). Notably, management of multiple databases has no correlation with the feature of the plurality of adapters allowing access to the databases being *independent from a technology of the particular database*. Stated differently, adapters without these features may still allow the PTM server to manage the databases as described in Siegel. As such, Siegel fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 4.

Alonso is not alleged to, nor does it cure the deficiencies of Siegel. As such, applicants respectfully submit that a combination of Siegel and Alonso, even if proper, fails to result in teaching or suggesting each and every feature of claim 4. Accordingly, claim 4 is separately patentable for this additional reason.

Claims 12-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Siegel and Alonso and further in view of U.S. publication no. 2001/0016880 A1 to Cai et al. ("Cai"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 12-17 ultimately depend on claim 1. With respect to claim 1, Cai fails to cure the deficiencies of Siegel and Alonso. Notably, Cai fails to discuss the feature of each adapter being

configured to manage a *corresponding* database typology as recited in claim 1. Instead, Cai describes an adapter configured to manage the different databases regardless of the database typology. See e.g., FIG. 3 of Cai, reproduced below (where each of the three databases are accessed by a LDAP adapter).
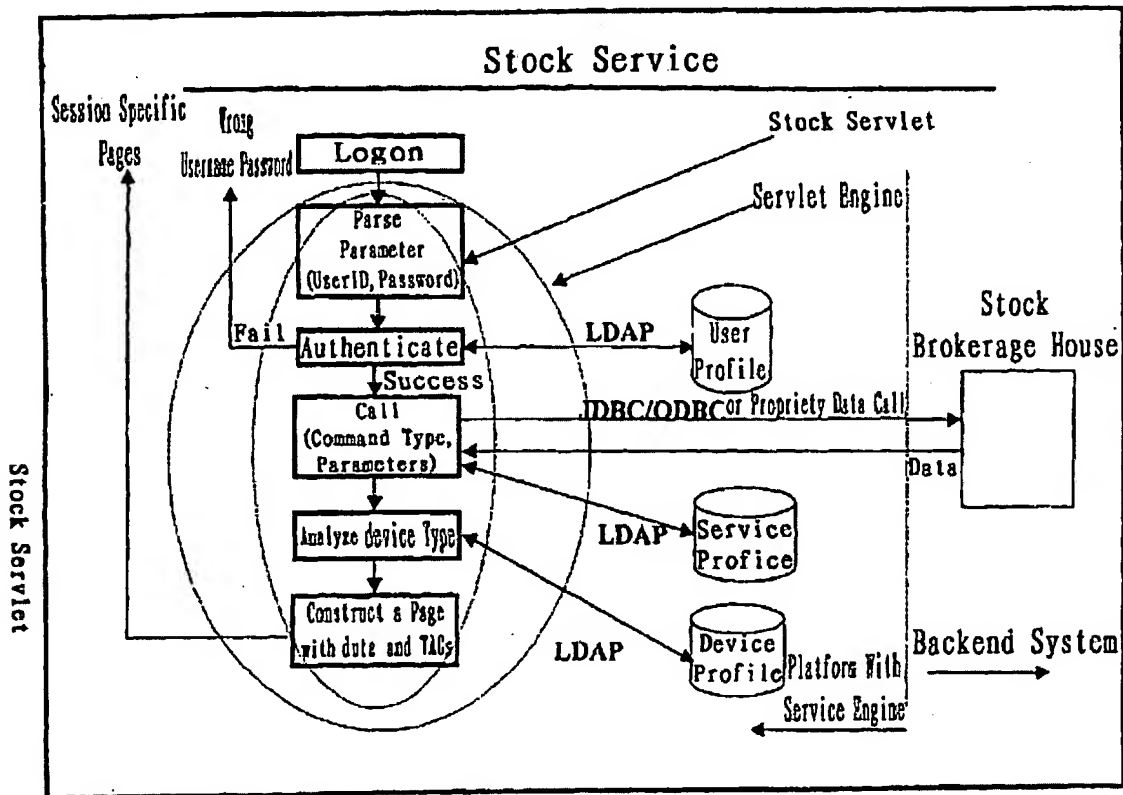

Fig. 3

Therefore, Cai fails to cure the deficiencies of Siegel and Alonso. As such, even assuming but not conceding that a combination of Siegel, Alonso and Cai would have been appropriate, such a combination would not have resulted in each and every feature of claims 12-17. Accordingly, claims 12 are patentably distinct from a combination of Siegel, Alonso and Cai.

New Claims

New claim 23 is fully supported by the specification and believed to be allowable over the art of record. For example, the cited art fails to teach or suggest that the device comprises a

first plurality of databases, and wherein the second plurality of databases is located separately from the device as recited in claim 23.

CONCLUSION

If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

All rejections having been addressed, applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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